



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 April 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- The Arizona Republic reports that a single-engine plane carrying two people made an emergency landing on an elementary school field in Phoenix, Arizona on Wednesday. The right wing of the plane struck a chain-link fence on the school playground. (See item [31](#))
- According to CNET News, BlackBerry users around the country were without e-mail for about 3 hours in a nationwide outage on April 13 that affected users on all major wireless networks. (See item [36](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams Sector](#)

SUSTENANCE AND HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water Sector](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL AND STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Power outage in Miami repaired, electricity restored.** Authorities say an electrical substation in Miami, Oklahoma that was damaged by fire has been repaired and power is back on to thousands of customers. The blaze was reported about 6:30 p.m. on April 15 at the Grand River Dam Authority substation near the Will Rogers Turnpike. About 6,500 homes and businesses were affected. Police say the power was back on at about 2 a.m. on April 16. An assistant city manager says the

substation blew a main breaker and caused an explosion. No injuries are reported.
Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/news/sns-ap-ok--miami-poweroutage,0,662419.story>

2. *April 15, Associated Press* – (California) **Outages remain after 26,000 lost power in Bay Area.** Utility crews are working on getting the electricity turned back on for thousands of Pacific Gas & Electric customers who lost power during the night of April 14. A PG&E spokesman says weather-related issues knocked out electrical service to about 26,000 homes and businesses across the Bay Area on April 14. Most of those who lost service have had it restored, but about 1,100 people on the Peninsula and about 1,100 in the Santa Cruz area remained without power the morning of April 15. Some scattered outages still remain in San Francisco, the North Bay and the East Bay.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/04/15/state/n062719D43.DTL&feed=rss.news>
3. *April 15, Associated Press* – (Maryland; Virginia; West Virginia) **High-voltage Mid-Atlantic power line delayed.** The companies planning a high-voltage transmission line across parts of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia say they have pushed back the completion date of the proposed project one year to the middle of 2014. American Electric Power Co. (AEP) of Columbus, Ohio and Allegheny Energy of Greensburg, Pennsylvania said on April 15 that the change reflects a new analysis by regional grid operator PJM Interconnection of the system's reliability. The companies said PJM still considers the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline critical to avoiding significant overloads and voltage problems in the region by 2014. Allegheny and AEP say they plan to file applications with state utility regulators for the project by June.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/04/15/ap6295392.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *April 15, United Press International* – (National) **Pesticides to be subjected to EPA testing.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it has issued the first list of pesticides to be screened for possibly disrupting the endocrine system. The federal agency said endocrine disruptors are chemicals that interact with and possibly disrupt the hormones produced or secreted by the human or animal endocrine system, which regulates growth, metabolism and reproduction. "Gathering this information will help us work with communities and industry to protect Americans from harmful exposure," said an EPA administrator. Officials said they will issue test orders to the manufacturers of 67 pesticide chemicals this summer to determine whether the chemicals might disrupt the endocrine systems — estrogen, androgen and thyroid. Testing, the EPA said, will eventually be expanded to cover all pesticide chemicals.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2009/04/15/Pesticides-to-be-subjected-to-EPA-testing/UPI-61531239816140/
5. *April 15, WPXI 11 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **McDonald chemical plant expansion includes new siren system.** A McDonald chemical plant is expanding and, included in the expansion, is a new siren and notification system. Reaxis Chemicals is in the process

of installing a new 3,200 gallon reactor used to process products like liquid polymers, plastics and sealants. The expansion comes with increased safety concerns from Robinson Township supervisors since the plant had an acid leak in 2002. However, the plant's operations director said the expansion also includes a new siren and response plan. "There are dangers with all chemicals," he said. "We are in the chemical business so we live with those on a daily basis, but that is why we have put our environmental health and safety plans in place." The new warning system is expected to be finalized within the next two months.

Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/19190893/detail.html>

6. *April 15, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Chemical fire leaves worker badly burned.** A worker at an Albany chemical company was seriously burned on the night of April 15. Firefighters are still trying to figure out what caused the fire. The man suffered second degree burns over 60 to 70 percent of his body in a flash fire from an acetylene tank at Equinox Chemicals on West Oakridge Drive. Firefighters and hazmat crews responded a little before 9 o'clock. They blocked off Oakridge Drive, as they made sure no dangerous chemicals were leaking. Equinox does pharmaceutical research and manufacturing for companies, government agencies and defense contractors.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=10191953>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *April 15, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC directs staff to enhance security of cesium chloride radiation sources while alternatives are explored.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has directed the agency staff to continue enhancing the security of cesium chloride radiation sources, while encouraging research and further technological developments for alternative chemical forms of cesium-137. The Commission agreed with the staff's position in a paper presented last November that near-term replacement of cesium chloride sources in existing blood, research, and calibration irradiators is not practicable and would be harmful to the delivery of medical care, research and emergency response capabilities. The Commission noted that security controls already implemented over the past several years have significantly improved the security of these sources. However, it directed the staff to continue exploring new ways to improve their security further. Those efforts are to include working with federal and state agencies to define criteria for a "dispersible source of concern" that could then be used to guide research efforts to develop an alternative form of cesium. The staff was also directed to develop a Commission policy statement detailing the Commission's emphasis on security of cesium chloride sources. These radiation sources fall into the International Atomic Energy Agency's Categories 1 and 2, which the NRC considers most sensitive from a security standpoint. These sources are widely used in irradiators to sterilize human blood, in bio-medical and industrial research, and for calibration of radiation instrumentation and dosimetry.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-074.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing

8. *April 16, Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* – (National) **Rechargeable batteries recalled by Frontrow.** The following product recalls were announced by federal and state agencies and supplied to the Leaf-Chronicle by recalls.org: Frontrow is recalling rechargeable batteries sold nationwide from June 2005 to December 2008. The batteries can rapidly overheat, posing a burn hazard. Only batteries with part number 374-30-400-00, printed on the light green sleeve of the battery, are included in the recall. Consumers should contact their FrontRow agent to receive free replacement batteries.
Source: <http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20090416/BUSINESS/904160333>
9. *April 14, Associated Press* – (Michigan; Missouri) **Mo. battery maker to expand in Michigan.** The Missouri governor said on April 14 that a Kansas City-area battery maker is headed to Michigan for a proposed 900-job expansion and that legislative delays on an economic development package are to blame. Lee's Summit-based Kokam America Inc. announced on April 14 it was partnering with Dow Chemical Co. on an 800,000 square-foot plant in Michigan to build batteries for hybrid and electric vehicles. At a news conference in the governor's office, the Missouri governor cited the announcement as an example of the consequences of legislative delays in an economic development bill favored by the Democratic governor. The president of Kokam said that despite the Michigan announcement, the company hopes both to expand its existing plant and build another 800,000-square-foot plant in Missouri. Kokam currently produces lithium polymer batteries for the U.S. Department of Defense and has a contract with a Kansas City electric vehicle company at its 50,000 square-foot Lee's Summit plant. Many hybrids currently use traditional batteries, but the president of Kokam said lithium is both lighter and can hold more energy. Michigan has created a series of special tax breaks for makers of electric and hybrid vehicle batteries. The state is seeking to re-brand itself as a hub for battery research and manufacturing.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/04/14/ap6290953.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *April 16, Global Security Newswire* – (California) **Security reforms needed at Livermore Lab, GAO says.** The United States should address security vulnerabilities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California through planning and funding for training security personnel and offering its operating contractor bonuses for maintaining improved safeguards, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said Wednesday. The Energy Department noted various security shortfalls at the laboratory, giving the lowest possible grades to the site's protective force performance and management of classified materials. The department's Independent Oversight Office also reported issues with the facility's alarms and sensors, security planning, and assurance operations. The deficiencies stemmed partly from the laboratory's lax self-assessment program, which awarded its security measures 100 percent ratings in a 2007 report, according to congressional auditors. The facility is revamping a program that

trains security personnel to spot vulnerabilities, but the new program so far lacks a specific funding plan, the GAO report says. The laboratory said in December it had achieved 74 percent of its security improvement goals. The Energy Department is expected to conduct a new evaluation of security at the site this month. Livermore might not meet a goal of removing a majority of its special nuclear material by the end of fiscal 2012 due to problems coordinating with other agencies and securing funding for the effort, the auditors added.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090416_5868.php

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *April 15, Network World* – (National) **Organized crime caused big data breach spike, says Verizon.** A new study from Verizon Business claims that organized crime is responsible for a large increase in the number of breached corporate electronic records, which totaled roughly 285 million last year. According to the study, which Verizon Business compiled using data from the 90 confirmed corporate network breaches it recorded last year, roughly 93 percent of all records breached came from the financial sector. The company also says that nine out every 10 of these breaches involved “groups identified by law enforcement as engaged in organized crime.” Verizon says that the 285 million electronic records breached last year were more than the total number of records breached in the past four years combined. The reason for the sharp increase is that attacks on financial firms’ networks have become more sophisticated and successful, the company says. Although only 17 percent of the attacks studied by Verizon constituted “highly sophisticated” data breaches, these attacks were responsible for 95 percent of all records breached. Verizon says that cybercriminals are targeting financial service companies’ networks to get customers’ personal identification number (PIN) information in order to withdraw cash directly from their accounts. Cybercriminals are also selling PIN information on the black market, the company says. Overall, the study found that external sources were responsible for nearly three-fourths of the breached records, while internal sources accounted for 20 percent. Partner breaches, in which network security was compromised by a company’s business partner, accounted for 32 percent of all breaches.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/041409-data-breach-organized-crime.html?hpg1=bn>

12. *April 15, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Man uses threat of explosives to rob bank.** A bank robber escaped with money from a U.S. Bank in Phoenix at 22nd Street and Camelback Road on April 15, leaving a suspicious object that forced police to close a busy intersection. Police received a call and responded to the robbery about 1:45 p.m., said a spokesman for the Phoenix Police Department. The suspect entered the building, placed a bag he claimed contained explosives on the counter and demanded money. He then fled the scene, leaving the bagged device to preoccupy police. Officers closed the intersection outside the bank while bomb squads investigated the bag. The intersection reopened about 3:45 p.m., once the device was determined to be non-explosive, the spokesman said.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2009/04/15/20090415abr-bankrobbery0415.html>

13. *April 14, New York Times* – (National) **Banks get quiet assistance from FDIC debt program.** A program approved last fall that let banks issue debt backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. enabled banks to continue to operate even as other businesses found it impossible to raise money. So far banks, including Goldman Sachs, have issued \$300 billion in debt under the program. “It is an infinite subsidy. It is their franchise value,” said the chief economist at Moody’s Economy.com. Bank executives say their firms may not have survived without the program.

Source: <http://www.smartbrief.com/news/nyssa/storyDetails.jsp?issueid=C9D0C195-0D26-40F6-A5DD-CEE845291E11©id=532B16BC-F666-4EF7-812E-E938AEE79448>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

14. *April 16, Reuters* – (International) **Somali pirates put superyacht rich in range.** Multi-million-dollar superyachts sailing from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean for the European summer could be the next high-profile target of Somali pirates, security experts say. The luxury craft, many measuring more than 330 feet and owned by some of the world’s wealthiest people, tend to spend the northern hemisphere winter in the Indian Ocean or the Caribbean before relocating to the Mediterranean to host their owners and friends. Those moving from tropical islands such as the Seychelles, Mauritius and the Maldives need to sail through the Gulf of Aden to get to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal, taking them through the Somali coast’s pirated waters. “The pirates have really increased their capability, they’ve got better, faster boats with longer ranges, and they’re able to operate at night up to 300 miles off the coast,” a security specialist with Olive Group told Reuters. “If a superyacht comes through their area of operation, then they are just as likely to go for it as anything else. They would be delighted to have that. It would be rich pickings.”

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE53F3FZ20090416>

15. *April 16, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Sinkhole closes Gastonia’s U.S. 321.** A major Gastonia route remains closed Thursday morning, while crews battle to repair the impact of a sinkhole. Two of three lanes on northbound U.S. 321 are closed, just north of Interstate 85. In addition, the ramp from southbound Interstate 85 to U.S. 321 is closed. Crews closed this road about 9 a.m. April 15 and had hoped to complete repairs by the end of the afternoon. But the sinkhole, estimated to be about 12 feet in diameter, proved too much a hurdle. Crews are still working Thursday morning to make the repairs. Department of Transportation officials say a drainage pipe broke underground, causing the sinkhole. Crews are not sure when repairs will be completed, but the latest estimate is 5 p.m. Thursday.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/244/story/667210.html>

16. *April 15, Aviation Herald* – (International) **Alitalia B763 over Atlantic on Apr 15th 2009, pilot incapacitation.** An Alitalia Boeing 767-300, performing flight AZ-604 from Milan Malpensa, Italy to New York JFK, New York with 168 passengers and 11 crew members, was enroute overhead the Atlantic, when the captain suffered an obvious heart attack and was incapacitated. The first officer declared emergency and turned back towards Shannon, Ireland, where the airplane landed safely about 2 hours later at around 5 p.m. The captain was brought to a hospital, his condition is currently unknown. The flight is estimated to depart again at 9 a.m. April 16.
Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=4181c1b1&opt=1>
17. *April 15, KIPX 5 San Francisco* – (California) **Salvage plans to continue Thursday for boat that crashed into San Mateo Bridge.** The 70-foot fishing vessel that crashed into the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge on April 14 evening is expected to remain grounded at the crash site until sometime April 16, a U.S. Coast Guard petty officer said Wednesday evening. A multi-agency briefing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. April 16 to continue discussions on a plan to salvage the boat, which struck the bridge at about 6 p.m. April 14, a petty officer said. The Coast Guard monitored the Dandy Bill throughout the day and removed an estimated 1,300 gallons of diesel from the vessel. The vessel has a fuel capacity of 8,000 gallons, but a Coast Guard spokesman said the majority of fuel has been removed. Crews conducted environmental assessments of shore areas on April 15 and did not see any signs of pollution, the Coast Guard said Wednesday evening. Oil sheens were seen drifting west from within one to two miles of the crash site, the Coast Guard reported earlier April 15, but authorities are still investigating the source of the sheens. A California Department of Transportation spokeswoman said the crash did not cause structural damage to the bridge, but concrete chips were ripped from the span as the boat banged into the side of it in the heavy winds.
Source: <http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=SALVAGE-PLAN-bagm->
18. *April 14, Aviation Herald* – (New York) **Jetblue E190 at New York on Apr 14th 2009, smoke in cabin.** The crew of a Jetblue Embraer ERJ-190, flight B6-919 from New York JFK, New York to Chicago O'Hare, Illinois with 54 people on board, reported smoke in the cabin about 90 seconds after takeoff from runway 13R and requested to return to John F. Kennedy Airport. About three minutes later, the crew reported that the smoke started to dissipate, but there was still haze in the mid cabin and it was still warm there. The airplane landed safely on runway 13L 16 minutes after takeoff.
Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=418156fa&opt=1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Texas) **La. firefighters to help in Texas.** Firefighters from Louisiana are in west Texas to help battle wildfires. The teams from the Louisiana agriculture department went to Granbury, Texas over the weekend and are expected to stay up to two weeks. They took trucks and bulldozers with them, to use to help prevent further fires from igniting. The Louisiana agriculture commissioner says his department can help Texas now because wildfire danger levels in Louisiana are low to moderate.
Source: <http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20090416/NEWS01/90416002>
20. *April 16, USAGNet* – (National) **Nanotechnology may be used for food safety.** A microscopic biological sensor that detects Salmonella bacteria in lab tests has been developed by an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist and university colleagues. The sensor could be adapted to detect other foodborne pathogens as well. The sensor is part of the evolving science of nanotechnology. The detection method may have great potential for food safety and security, according to an ARS engineer. The biosensors developed include fluorescent organic dye particles attached to Salmonella antibodies. The antibodies hook onto Salmonella bacteria and the dye lights up like a beacon, making the bacteria easier to see.
Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=843&yr=2009>
21. *April 16, USAGNet* – (Kentucky) **Low-path bird flu confirmed in Kentucky.** Low-pathogenic avian influenza has been found on a broiler breeder farm in western Kentucky belonging to Perdue Farms. The virus, responsible for a minimal drop in egg production in mid-March, has been identified as belonging to the H7 sub-type. The strain poses minimal risk to human health and is not the highly pathogenic strain associated with human and poultry deaths in other countries. Perdue plans to depopulate 20,000 chickens in two houses on the farm. “I have been in constant contact with state, federal and industry officials since this came to light,” the agriculture commissioner said. “The people of Kentucky and our trading partners should rest assured that we are doing everything possible to address the situation.” Testing by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa resulted in a presumptive positive finding for the H7 strain. Subsequent testing by NVSL and the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville confirmed the finding. No virus has been isolated and no poultry deaths have been found in connection with the infection.
Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=839&yr=2009>
22. *April 16, Fort Myers News-Press* – (Florida) **Pesticide exposure alleged at Immokalee farm.** A pair of state agencies are investigating an allegation that two pregnant farmworkers may have lost their babies after a possible pesticide exposure on an Immokalee farm. An anonymous complaint made to the department Tuesday also alleges other workers experienced respiratory problems and itching after being allowed to enter a pesticide-treated area before the required waiting time had expired. The director for agricultural environmental services for the Florida Department of Agriculture said such exposure complaints are uncommon because workers are hesitant to speak up. “These kinds of investigations always move to the top of the priority list,”

he said. An Immokalee organizer with the Farmworker Association of Florida said one of the women was rushed to the hospital Friday and had surgery to have her child removed. He had not spoken to the other woman. The director for agricultural environmental services anticipated the investigation could take a week or longer and fines for pesticide misuse could range from a few to several thousands of dollars. The department is working with the EPA to require more detailed pesticide record-keeping. A professor at the University of South Florida's College of Public Health said various factors play into a miscarriage. Pesticide absorption through the skin could reach a fetus, he said, at the same time noting miscarriages are not rare early in a pregnancy. "It is possible, but it's a complicated thing," he said. "The reproductive issues of women, especially of agricultural workers, are really poorly studied."

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20090416/NEWS01/904160352/1075>

23. *April 15, Austin Daily Herald* – (Minnesota) **Bomb threat evacuates Quality Pork Processors.** Workers at Quality Pork Processing (QPP) in Austin, Minnesota were evacuated as a precaution early Wednesday morning after a bomb threat. There are few details other than that QPP "elected to remove employees from the plant," the Austin Police chief said. He said that so far nothing has been found, but that the matter is still under investigation. The Hormel Plant was not affected.
Source: <http://www.austindailyherald.com/news/2009/apr/15/bomb-threat-evacuates-quality-pork-processors/>
24. *April 14, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Arsenic kills Buffalo Lake meat plant; 200 lose jobs.** More than 200 workers in a small town 90 minutes west of Minneapolis have lost their jobs after a beef slaughtering plant was forced to shut down because its water contained excessive levels of arsenic, a condition the plant owner said he could not afford to fix in time to avoid federal penalties. The shutdown last week resulted from growing understanding of the toxic effects of arsenic, which has led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement new, tighter restrictions for drinking water. The closure was the final blow for a plant that in recent months had fallen behind in payments to its suppliers, suffered a fire that caused at least \$1.1 million in damage and racked up back taxes to the county. North Star Beef has customers in Asia and many domestic locations, including Texas, Florida and Washington and the cities of Chicago, Detroit and New York. The Minnesota Department of Health tested the plant's water last summer and found 18.4 parts per billion of arsenic. Based on those findings, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service threatened to shut down the plant unless the plant installed a water filter. The owner said he distributed bottled drinking water throughout the plant for his employees while investigating filtration systems. The cheapest he found cost \$450,000 and would require four months to install, but no bank would lend him the money, he said, because of the credit crisis. According to the owner, an alternative plan to save the plant would have had it hook up to the municipal water supply at a cost of \$110,000, a process that would take about five weeks. But state health officials balked when they learned that Buffalo Lake's municipal water contains 30 parts per billion of arsenic.
Source: <http://m.startribune.com/articles/191147105>

25. *April 13, Grand Rapids Press* – (National) **Voracious goby extends its range to deeper water, threatening Great Lakes, scientists say.** The round goby is taking over large swaths of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters, according to scientists studying the invader. New research conducted in Green Bay, Wisconsin found that gobies were hogging tiny aquatic organisms that other fish species need to survive. “Gobies eat everything in their path...This is not just a problem in Green Bay, it is happening in all of the Great Lakes,” said an ecologist at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. “The decrease in food may cause other fish populations to decline, and thus affect the fishing economy of the Great Lakes.” There are about 10 million pounds of gobies in Lake Michigan. The invader accounts for nearly one-quarter of all bait fish in the lake, by weight, according to government estimates. “Gobies can have major impacts on the lower food web but do some good as they convert dreissenids (zebra and quagga mussels) to usable food for top predators — food that, if not eaten by gobies, would be just an ecological dead end,” said a University of Michigan research ecologist who discovered gobies in the Great Lakes. The invaders also are extending their range to deeper parts of the Great Lakes and infesting rivers and inland lakes across the region that flow into lakes Michigan, Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario. Gobies reside in all five Great Lakes and have been spotted in rivers in all eight U.S. states that line the lakes, according to data compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey. The invaders are a conduit for a naturally occurring toxin that causes botulism, or food poisoning, and manmade chemicals that accumulate in zebra and quagga mussels. Type E botulism passed up the food chain — from zebra and quagga mussels to gobies, larger fish and birds — has killed more than 70,000 fish-eating birds in the Great Lakes over the past decade.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/04/voracious_goby_extends_its_ran.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

26. *April 15, Associated Press* – (California) **Interior secretary pledges drought aid for Calif.** The U.S. Secretary of the Interior is pledging \$260 million in federal stimulus money to help California address its water shortages. The Secretary announced the funding April 15 after completing an aerial tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, which sends water to nearly two-thirds of Californians. California’s statewide drought led the governor to declare a state of emergency in February. The stimulus money is part of the \$1 billion announced by the Bureau of Reclamation for water projects intended to create jobs across the West. California’s share will fund such projects as new groundwater wells and rock barriers to improve water quality in the delta. An additional \$135 million will be available for water reuse and recycling projects.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gHpM_8iqnBfUeUiMPERCOI9vcEwAD97J4HKG1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *April 15, Xinhua* – (International) **HK, Canadian researchers find new H5N1 inhibitors.** Researchers from Hong Kong and Canada found a new inhibitor against H5N1 avian flu virus by using a new technology platform, according to the University of Hong Kong which made the results public on Wednesday. The university's faculty of medicine and the Genome Sciences Center of the British Columbia Cancer Agency, Canada, made use of computational molecular docking in a recent collaborative research and screened about 230,000 compounds. Twenty of them were found to be potential anti-H5N1 virus candidates. Of the 20 compounds tested, "compound-1" demonstrated the ability to inhibit neuraminidase, thus the replication of the virus at a level comparable to oseltamivir, an effective drug currently used to combat influenza. A professor of the university's Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine said neuraminidase was an agent capable of enabling the virus to spread to normal host cells. However, current drugs such as oseltamivir, which could inhibit neuraminidase, would become totally non-effective one day if the virus developed strong resistance towards the drugs. The study revealed that "compound-1" was able to bind to the neuraminidase of the virus and it may overcome the drug resistance introduced by mutation of the virus. By using computational analysis, the cost of this study had largely gone down and about two years of time have been saved, when compared with traditional research methods involving real-life demonstrations.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/15/content_11191189.htm

28. *April 15, Sioux City Journal* – (South Dakota) **Officials: Urology clinic reused equipment.** Health officials say a urology clinic in Dakota Dunes may have put patients at risk of exposure to blood-borne infectious diseases. The South Dakota Department of Health issued a statement Wednesday saying Siouxland Urology Center was found during a routine survey to be using saline bags and tubing on multiple patients who received a cystoscopy. Saline bags and tubing should be used on one patient only, the department said. Although the risk to patients is low, the health department said Siouxland Urology Center immediately halted the practice. Siouxland Urology Center has notified 5,700 patients of the situation and is offering them free blood tests.

Source:

http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2009/04/15/news/latest_news/9a5599b9797449d586257599007d9548.txt

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

29. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Davenport University dorm evacuated for 2 hours.** Authorities say a chemical spray was released in a stairwell at a Davenport University dormitory, forcing the evacuation of nearly 80 students for about two hours. The Grand Rapids Press says firefighters were called about 10:30 p.m. on April 15 to the five-story Fred and Lena Meijer Hall in Kent County's Caledonia Township, just outside Grand Rapids, on reports a foul odor was causing students to have trouble

breathing. Fire officials say several students were examined for breathing trouble, but no one was seriously injured. Authorities found someone intentionally released a pressurized canister similar to pepper spray used by police. Students were kept in the school's field house while the dorm was searched and ventilated.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-dormevacuation,0,3366649.story>

30. *April 15, CNN* – (District of Columbia) **A box of tea forces White House into lockdown.** Secret Service officers were scurrying to close the North Lawn of the White House on the afternoon of April 15 because of a suspicious package and it appeared that trouble was brewing. But it turned out that nothing more was brewing than a little box of tea bags. The security alert started around 2 p.m., when an unidentified person tossed the box over the gate of the White House and it landed on the President's lawn. Journalists were quickly banned from moving outside of the press briefing room, and hundreds of protesters gathered for a "Tax Day Tea Party" were quickly shooed out of Lafayette Park as a security robot inspected the package.

Source: <http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2009/04/15/tea-bag-toss-ends-white-house-protest/>

31. *April 15, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Plane crash lands near school building in west Phoenix.** A single-engine plane carrying two people made an emergency landing on an elementary school field in Phoenix on April 15. No one was injured in the landing. A 23-year-old student and 28-year-old flight instructor were flying the Cessna 152 in an area around the Glendale Municipal Airport when they reported engine trouble, a Federal Aviation Administration said. The pair decided they could not make it back to the airport and made an emergency landing just feet from the computer lab at Villa de Paz Elementary School around 9:30 a.m. The school is about one mile southeast of the airport. The right wing of the plane struck a chain-link fence on the school playground.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2009/04/15/20090415forced-landing0415.html>

32. *April 15, KVUE 33 Austin* – (Texas) **DPS attacked by computer virus.** A computer virus has damaged computers throughout the state's Department of Public Safety system. Authorities say it has not affected public safety. But the problem caused the driver's license office in Austin, Texas to shut down. Troopers also had trouble in the field. Their in-car computers only worked intermittently. Some had to rely on dispatchers to run criminal history and warrant checks. A State Police Colonel issued this statement to KVUE: "The DPS computer system was hit by a virus today. We have been working diligently to restore services and believe we are close to doing so. Although internal communications and some external services such as driver license issuance were disrupted, at no time was citizen safety ever compromised. Our police enforcement communications network proceeded normally throughout the day." Full capabilities may not be restored until the week of April 20-24.

Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/top/stories/041509kvuedps-bkm.dbb74b74.html>

Emergency Services Sector

33. *April 15, SouthTown Star* – (Illinois) **Orland plans to drop its SWAT.** The Orland Park Police Department will dismantle its SWAT and join the South Suburban Emergency Response Team. While the police chief says they prefer to keep their own SWAT team, new training requirements for part-time teams such as Orland Park's Special Response Team have forced the department to look at other alternatives. The team executes high-risk arrest warrants and search warrants and is also used in hostage and barricade situations. During his 15-year-tenure, the police chief said, the team has been activated four times for hostage/barricade negotiations and about 50 times for the high-risk warrants. But the training requirements set by the National Tactical Officers Association would require Orland Park to double the time it spends on training, which would mean less time on the street for the officers assigned to the team. If Orland Park did not abide by the new training guidelines, the department could open itself up to legal problems if something went wrong on an operation.

Source: <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1526819,041509orlandswat.article>

34. *April 15, South Carolina Now* – (South Carolina) **Natural disaster drill set to begin today in Horry County.** Horry County Emergency Management is hosting a natural disaster exercise called Operation Coastal Watch beginning on April 15 and running through until April 17. According to a news release, this exercise is designed to put into action the emergency response plans the county has in place. Local agencies as well as SC Emergency Management, SC Highway Patrol, Army National Guard, the American Red Cross, and the National Weather Service are participating. According to the release, missions will take place throughout Horry County and several major missions will involve hundreds of troops fully-equipped on the ground and military assets in the air.

Source:

http://www.scnw.com/scp/news/local/grand_strand/article/natural_disaster_drill_set_to_begin_today_in_horry_county/44407/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

35. *April 15, Computerworld* – (International) **VMware bug allows Windows hack to attack Macs.** A bug in VMware's Fusion virtualization software could be used to run malicious code on a Mac by exploiting Windows in a virtual machine, a security researcher said on April 15. VMware has released Fusion 2.0.4 to plug the hole. According to an exploit researcher at Immunity Inc., a critical vulnerability in VMware's virtual machine display function can be used to read and write memory on the "host" operating system, the OS running the physical hardware. The researcher crafted an exploit for Immunity's customers and posted a video clip that demonstrates an attack on a machine running Windows Vista Service Pack 1 as the host operating system, and Windows XP as the "guest," the OS running in a virtual machine. "This is indeed a guest-to-host exploit," the researcher said in an e-mail on April 15. "It uses several vulnerabilities in the 'Display functions' (as VMware put it) that allow

[someone] to read and write arbitrary memory in the host. Thus the guest can run some code on the host, effectively bypassing ASLR and DEP on Vista SP1.” The same tactics can be employed against a guest operating system, say, Windows XP, running in Fusion on a Mac powered by Apple’s Mac OS X, the researcher confirmed. “The vulnerability is also present in VMware Fusion and as such would allow a guest (Windows or Linux) to run code on the Mac OS X host,” he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9131647&intsrc=news_ts_head

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

36. *April 14, CNET News* – (National) **BlackBerry users experience e-mail outage.**

BlackBerry users around the country were without e-mail for about 3 hours in a nationwide outage April 13 that affected users on all major wireless networks. From about 1 p.m. to about 4 p.m., people who subscribe to a BlackBerry e-mail service through their wireless carrier instead of being offered the service through their companies could not send or receive e-mail or access the BlackBerry Internet Service Web site. They also were not able to create new accounts, access their Internet mailboxes, integrate third-party e-mail accounts, or view e-mail attachments during this time. A spokeswoman for Research in Motion, the company that makes the BlackBerry devices and operates its push-e-mail service, said that “some customers experienced a delay receiving e-mail on April 14, but it wasn’t system-wide.” Service is now operating normally, she added. But a representative from Sprint Nextel confirmed the outage and said the outage also affected the BlackBerry Internet Service Web site. Subscribers on all four major U.S. wireless networks — AT&T, Sprint Nextel, T-Mobile USA, and Verizon Wireless — complained that they had no access to e-mail until about 4 p.m., at which time they started getting a flood of e-mails that had been sent earlier in the day.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/TECH/ptech/04/14/cnet.blackberry.email.outrage/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *April 14, Wyoming Business Report* – (National) **Historic trails may be expanded under lands bill.** Wyoming, with portions of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express National Historic Trails winding through it, may get even more historic designations thanks to a National Parks Service (NPS) study planned for the next several years. The study, which lists 64 individual trail segments for study, is authorized under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act signed by the President on March 30. In addition to those specific trail systems, NPS is directed to identify and evaluate other trails that may be historically linked to the four existing national trails. Work will begin when funding is in place, probably within the next year. The study will be conducted by the National Trails Intermountain Region program office of NPS, with branches in Santa Fe and Salt Lake City. The entire study and decision-making process, which includes extensive consultation with the general public and coordination with other federal agencies, Indian tribes, and state and local governments in as many as 14 states, could take more than four years.

Source: <http://www.wyomingbusinessreport.com/article.asp?id=99632>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

38. *April 15, Bend Bulletin* – (Oregon) **Engineering failure at \$100M fish facility.** The 140-foot-tall underwater tower — one of the three major components of the \$100 million fish passage facility at Lake Billy Chinook — broke in two over the weekend, causing a significant setback for a project to restore salmon and steelhead runs in the Upper Deschutes Basin. Crews had suspended the vertical tower, which is 40 feet in diameter, in the reservoir, but the evening of April 11, the 573,000-pound structure suddenly snapped, sending one section bobbing to the surface while the rest dropped to the reservoir floor. The fish passage facility has been under construction since fall 2007. Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs agreed to build the structure, which would alter the lake's currents and allow fish to be collected and trucked around the Pelton-Round Butte Dam complex, as part of their federal relicensing agreement. When the three dams were built in the 1950s and 1960s, the structures changed the water flow patterns in Lake Billy Chinook and caused migrating salmon and steelhead to lose their way — effectively blocking the fish from reaching the ocean and killing off the Upper Deschutes populations. What officials do know is that over the weekend, construction crews were in the process of assembling different pieces of the structure, said a spokesman for Portland General Electric. The bottom piece, which will direct water through the dam to the power plant, was already in place, attached to the lake bed 270 feet below the reservoir's surface. The top piece, where water and fish will enter the facility, was close to completion and crews were floating it toward the spot where it would be attached. The middle tower, called the vertical flow conduit and designed to connect the top and bottom sections, was assembled. Crews had attached guide wires and flotation devices to suspend it upright in the reservoir, the spokesman said. The plan going into April 11 was to float the top piece over the conduit, attach the

two, then move the newly joined structure over the bottom section and hook the whole thing together, he said. “As they were putting these three components in place — the top section, the conduit and the bottom section, lining the conduit and the top section up, the conduit separated into basically two sections,” he said. “The top section floated to the surface. The bottom section fell to the floor of the reservoir and ended up in several pieces.” No one was injured, he said. But now, PGE and the tribes, with the help of structural consultants, will start investigating what happened, he said.

Source:

http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090415/NEWS0107/904150374/1009/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01

39. *April 15, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **ND officials eye dikes, dam around threatened town.** North Dakota National Guard members are patrolling dikes along the bloated Sheyenne River and engineers are monitoring an upstream dam as the town of Valley City fights a record flood. The elderly, disabled and people living in low-lying areas were urged to evacuate April 15. A National Guard captain said April 15 that there were no overnight problems with dikes protecting the city. He said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is closely monitoring Baldhill Dam upstream on the river to see how much water the dam can hold back. The Sheyenne River is already above the 20-foot Valley City record set in April 1882. It was at 20.37 feet early April 15 and is projected to crest at around 21.5 feet later this week.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5SIImi4SoQ_N4HJvwHE0ZAD97IU5HO0

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.